

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

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TORONTO 2, CANADA

August 1st, 1931

ACCIDENTS HAPPEN!



(See Inside Cover)

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CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED
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BUT DON'T DEPEND ON ACCIDENTAL HITS FOR A STEADY CLIENTELE!

In the business of making motion pictures, when a company does what M-G-M is doing, you can bet it takes Organization, Brains and Personnel to do it! That's going to count again in 1931-32, but meanwhile we climax the greatest year of our history with—

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And we've just seen the **BIGGEST** yet!
SPORTING BLOOD—

As we romp to press the news of "Sporting Blood" sweeps through New York's film colony, just as it did in Hollywood when it was previewed on the Coast a few days ago! More later, but take a tip, M-G-M has come through with one of the greatest box-office properties since way, way back!

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RAY LEWIS

Editor and Managing Director

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Canada To Have Film Independence



MR. N. L. NATHANSON has made a statement that there will be a British chain of theatres in Canada. For some time, since the resignation of Mr. Nathanson, as managing director of Famous Players Canadian, his name has been identified with a new chain of theatres in Canada. In fact Mr. I. W. Killam, testifying before Commissioner White, at the public hearings of the Government's Investigation of an alleged Motion Picture

Combine, stated that it was the fear that Mr. Nathanson would combine with the Fox Interests, secure finance here, and build a chain of theatres which would imperil the investment of the Canadian shareholders in Famous Players, which inspired Mr. Killam to ask Mr. Zukor to take over the control of the Famous Players. Evidently at this particular time Mr. Zukor did not have the control.

In addition to the statement by Mr. Nathanson, we have now, in the process of incorporation, a new chain of theatres, under the trademark of the Community Theatres of Canada Limited, with Mr. Oscar Hanson as the general manager, and secretary-treasurer.

Exhibitors are familiar with Mr. Hanson's activities with Independent motion picture units in Canada, and the United States.

Word reaches us of another British chain of theatres formed by Independents in Western Canada, the activities of which will extend across the Dominion and promises of at least six big theatres in key centres.

Gaumont-British is also being connected with rumours of a Canadian chain, and representatives of other companies have been touring Canada, securing options on sites for new theatres.

It appears that the prophecy of The Digest is again being fulfilled, the prophecy which pictured Famous Players as losing its dominant position in Canada, following its absorption by Paramount-Publix marking the beginning of many Independent activities in exhibition, and distribution.

Meanwhile, we can only advise theatreowners to be careful. To investigate all propositions thoroughly before affiliating, or selling their theatre. There is no doubt, but that out of the many rumours, there will be an Independent development, some of it good, some not so good. The good will survive and will prosper, just as the good survived, and is prospering in Great Britain, following the introduction of the Film Quota Act, and its multiplicity of subsequent film promotions.

Keep steady, do not rush into propositions, remember your experience when The Digest prevented you from stampeding, following the absorption of Famous Players. **IT IS THE DAY OF PUBLIC OPINION, THE DAY OF PUBLIC INTEREST, THE DAY OF THE LITTLE FELLOW, BECAUSE IN CANADA, AT LEAST, WE HAVE A PRIME MINISTER, IN THE RT. HON. R. B. BENNETT, AT THE HEAD OF A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO GOVERN CANADA IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRINCIPLES, WHICH OPERATE FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL CITIZENS.**



Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer head poll in number of season's best productions.

RAY



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

PORT DOVER, Ontario, witnessed the opening of the New Gem Theatre with "Talking Pictures" last week. It is just eighteen years since the opening of the Gem Theatre in this town, Port Dover's one and only Picture House.

When you read the report of the opening of this house in the Brantford Expositor, you begin to realize that "Bird's Eye Centre" is an important centre in Motion Pictures; and one of the pivots, among thousands of others, which keep Motion Pictures in motion.

"The doors were opened an hour before the time scheduled for the first performance and the seating capacity of some 225 was soon exhausted. County Warden J. H. Misner opened the new venture with a few well-chosen remarks.

"Shortly before the opening of the second show the Port Dover band, Ernie Knight, leader, arrived in front of the theatre and played several selections.

"The theatre which is the latest word in fire-proof construction is patterned after The Empire Theatre, Hamilton. The work of remodelling the theatre was done by local men, Nunn Brothers having the entire work in charge. Mr. and Mrs. Fulkrod were the purchasers of the first two tickets."

HERE is a concrete demonstration of what we have endeavoured to emphasize in The Digest. The necessity for local colour, by way of community contacts, if the Motion Picture is to remain the people's entertainment. Move it to Wall St. and we prophesy you MOVE IT OUT.

The Wall St. Journal reports that because of the drain on current assets of Paramount-Publix, this company may pay its next quarterly dividend in stock instead of cash. The drain, the report states is due to the repurchase of common stock under guarantees given with the property purchase agreements.

The next payment, states the Wall St. Journal, under the repurchase agreement amounts to \$4,875,000 due Sept. 10th. "Expenditure of this amount, together with continued payment of dividends in cash during the summer period, when production expense is high and income low, might reduce the current asset ratio below the point required in the bond indenture."

The Journal advises that the management of Paramount-Publix may, if it chooses, sell \$10,000,000 of additional debenture bonds, or it may pay its dividend in stock payments, in place of cash payments for two or three quarters until the current position has been built up again out of current income.

Paramount's six per cent debentures are now selling around \$90.00; and states The Journal,

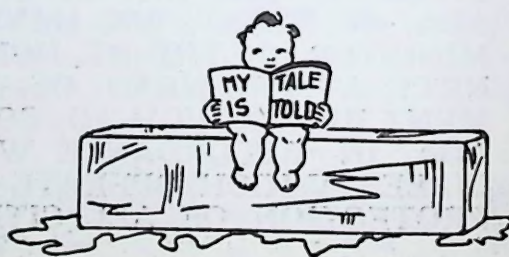
such financing would appear prohibitively high, "therefor, it is more probable that it will be decided to pay dividends in stock temporarily."

THE SEPTEMBER payment covers the repurchase of 65,000 shares of stock at \$75.00 a share. In 1932 there is a repurchase of 30,000 shares of stock due at \$85.00 a share, amounting to \$2,550,000, and on March 1st, 1932, another repurchase at \$85.00 a share, amounting to \$4,100,000, covering 48,246 shares. The total repurchase agreement amounts to \$11,525,000.

There is something strangely familiar in the \$75.00 repurchase agreement of 65,000 shares. It appears that there were approximately 165,000 shares deposited by the American Interests with the depository, under the Voting Trust agreement of the Famous Players. We also recall that Gaumont British offered \$75.00 a share for the Famous Players Canadian; and there is something also reminiscent, in this repurchase agreement of Mr. Killam.

We alleged that he must have received a better offer from Mr. Zukor than the Gaumont British one, to have made the deal, as he made it. The \$80.00 a share of 30,000 shares and \$85.00 a share for 48,246 shares, together with the total amount of \$11,525,000 appears to be, figuratively speaking, related to some such figures as Mr. Killam would have received in the matter of the Gaumont British deal, for the shares under his control. However, it is rather difficult for anyone to receive close to \$12,000,000 without some indication of such receipt; and "Time will tell."

Meanwhile, if the Canadian shareholders, who exchanged their shares for Paramount-Publix receive their dividends in Paramount-Publix stock, the Canadian shareholders, who retained their shares, will no doubt receive their dividend in cash, for the Canadian assets of the company, presumably, not under Paramount-Publix control, plus the profits of the Canadian company, can still pay dividends, unless the foreign management wishes to admit that it was less successful in paying dividends than the former management, which was continually building up profits, if any financial statement is now to be depended upon.



Columbia's "Dirigible" playing Uptown this week—splendid picture achievement.

Toronto Theatres

LOEW'S—Manager Jules Bernstein — A return engagement for Norma Shearer in the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production, "A Free Soul," with Lionel Barrymore. A sophisticated drama ably directed by Clarence Brown from the story by Adela Rogers St. John. Miss Shearer does a superb piece of acting, and Barrymore excels in a clever characterization of the well-known lawyer, who is ruined by drink.

UPTOWN—Manager Tom Daley — "Father's Son," a First National film with Lewis Stone, Irene Rich, Leon Janney and John Halliday. Lewis Stone, a successful business man, cannot seem to understand his young son, Leon Janney, who like other boys of his age, is always up to some mischief. The boy forms a very close attachment with the family doctor, John Halliday, who gives the boy all the sympathy and understanding which he is deprived of by his father. The mother, Irene Rich, realizing that this state of affairs cannot last, as the father is hampering the natural growth of his son, decides to leave Stone, although she loves him, and bring the boy up with the help of the doctor. After they have gone Stone begins to realize how much he cares for the boy, and how greatly he misses him, even the annoyances the boy caused him are minimized by his absence. Unable to stand it any longer, Stone calls up his wife, and the boy and mother gladly return to him. Directed by William Beaudine from the story by Booth Tarkington.

IMPERIAL—Manager H. V. Knevels — Richard Arlen and Peggy Shannon in "The Secret Call," a Paramount picture. A rather old fashioned drama that does not go over very big with the present day audience. Richard Arlen's father, a politician, frames Peggy Shannon's father, and forces him to resign from his political position; and ashamed of all the disgrace he commits suicide. Peggy, after the death of her father, refuses to see Arlen in spite of the fact that she is in love with him. Left penniless she gets a position as a telephone

operator, and through a co-incidence learns that Arlen's sister is having an affair with a Senator of high repute. The Senator and Arlen's father are having a political battle, and the politician tries to force Peggy to disclose the name of the woman with whom the Senator is having an affair. Finally tortured beyond endurance she tells him the truth, that it is his daughter. Grateful to Peggy for keeping his daughter's name out of any scandal, he leaves politics, and Richard and Peggy are reconciled. Directed by Stuart Walker.

TIVOLI—Manager Jimmy Lynch — "Uneasy Virtue," a British International picture with Fay Compton, Edmund Breon, Francis Lister, Donald Calthrop and Margot Grahame. The story centres around a married woman who flirts with another man, a thief, who happens to be staying at the same home that she is. A robbery takes place, and the thief is apprehended, but the problem is to find out which woman was with the thief when the robbery was committed. Another woman is blamed but the guilty one owns up, only to have her husband, who trusts her implicitly, think that she just did it to save the other woman from getting into trouble. The dialogue is exceedingly well written, and the histrionic ability of every member of the cast is well worth noting. Directed by Norman Walker.

SHEA'S—Manager Jerry Shea — Dorothy Mackaill in "Party Husband," with James Rennie, Don Cook, and Dorothy Peterson. A sophisticated comedy of a young couple, just married, who have decided that they are going to make a success of their marriage, and that either of them may go out with whom he or she pleases, so that they will not get tired of each other. However, as one would expect, the theory is not very successful. A First National picture, directed by Clarence Badger.

FOR SALE

Theatre seats, 1,000 Veneer at 50c - \$1.00 each. 300 upholstered seats, oak backs, \$2.00 each. 500 upholstered leather backs and seats, \$3.00 each.

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"Courtesy With Service"

Audience at Uptown strongly applaud Columbia's "Dirigible" at close of picture.

Round About the Studios

Eating onions effectively seems to have won Herman Bing, the German star, a permanent place among the comedians of English-language talking pictures.

Bing, a famous slapstick comedian of the German stage, was imported some time ago by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to play a featured role in the German language version of "The Big House." When other foreign actors were being released he was held on — and given his chance in English pictures with "The Great Lover."

Bing sent the audiences into fits of laughter with an eating scene involving that odoriferous vegetable — the onion. The result has been his immediate assignment to a new M-G-M vehicle, "The Guardsman," starring Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne under the direction of Sydney Franklin.

Lew Cody should begin to feel perfectly at home under the RKO Pathe banner. During the past six months, he has appeared in "Beyond Victory," starring Bill Boyd. Just before starting work on Eddie Quillan's "Sweepstakes," the popular villain made a two-reel burlesque entitled "Stout Hearts and Willing Hands," produced by the Hollywood Masquers Club. His latest RKO Pathe appearance is in "The Common Law," starring Constance Bennett. Cody also essayed a prominent role in "A Woman of Experience," featuring Helen Twelvetrees.

Sherwood Bailey, Jr., seven-year-old Long Beach lad, has been signed to a long-term contract by Hal Roach, according to announcement by that studio.

Kent Douglass, whose performance of Roy Cronin in "Waterloo Bridge" is almost analogous to that of Lew Ayres in "All Quiet," has been given another role by Universal. He will play the juvenile in support of Walter Huston in the magazine story by Olive Edens, which Universal has just purchased. Its present title is "Heart and Sand," which won't do at all. John Clymer has written the screen adaptation, Dale Van Every the continuity, and John Huston, son of the star, has written the dialogue. William Wyler will direct.

Columbia's "Pagan Lady" unit, took to the sea this week, where important sequences are being "shot." The company is aboard a steamer out of Los Angeles, which makes short cruises out of the harbor.

Dennis Hoey, on whose attractive personality the eye of Elstree has lately focussed its attentions, has been signed by British International Pictures for the much coveted title role of "McGlusky—the Sea Rover." His height, physique and beautifully resonant voice should lend themselves admirably to the part, in which he will be directed by F. W. Kraemer.

Greta Garbo's love of sunshine and water were indulged to her heart's content right along with work when the "Susan Lennox, Her Fall and Rise" company went on location at Franklin Lake.

On the lakeside, the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio built a charming sylvan bungalow, perched on pilings at the water's edge and nestled under the giant leafy peppers and oaks that overhang the shimmering lake. The house was built in complete detail, boasting a private wharf as a landing for a speedboat in which Miss Garbo and Clark Gable, her leading man, zoom about the lake in many scenes.

Alma Chester, one of the screen's earliest favorites who later left pictures to become a stage star, has been cast in a character role for RKO Pathe's western feature, "Sundown Trail," which stars Tom Keene.

Miss Chester was featured with Arthur Johnson, first matinee idol of the screen, for Lubin in the pioneer days of pictures. Her stage experience includes six years of starring with her own company and many seasons of featured roles on Broadway. She came to the west coast to appear in stage productions for Henry Duffy and gravitated naturally into pictures.

Notwithstanding the announced policy of Al Lichtman, Vice-President and General Manager of Distribution, of selling United Artists product only after exhibitors have had a chance to see it, a record number of contracts have been signed by the company for "The Unholy Garden," Ronald Colman's next picture, and "Palmy Days," Eddie Cantor's starring vehicle, which are the first two pictures on the U. A. schedule.

"Out of the Blue" is the new title conferred on "Little Tommy Tucker," Gene Gerrard's next starring vehicle with British International Pictures.

In order that Gerrard may, in addition to his direction of the picture, appear at his superlative best in the starring role, John Orton, the director of, among other films, "The Windjammer," "Creeping Shadows" (The Limping Man), and "Bill and Coo," will supervise "Out of the Blue," for Gerrard's express benefit.

Joan Carr, young English stage favorite, makes her screen debut in "Devotion," an RKO Pathe picture starring Ann Harding. Miss Carr appeared on the New York stage with great success during the past season.

Henry Armetta, Latin character actor, has been clicking off the laughs so regularly in comedy parts the last few years, that he goes quickly from one good part to another.

Armetta is a short, chunky Italian whose vivid Latin gesticulations in a wide variety of parts have given him a big comedy reputation.

He has now been signed by Edgar Selwyn to play a temperamental French chef in "Lullaby," starring Helen Hayes. He came to this role direct from a highly amusing Spanish hotel manager in "Just A Gigolo," and before that he was a decided menace to the peace and comfort of William Haines as a tailor-waiter in "A Tailor Made Man."

Marjorie Rambeau, famous stage and screen actress, will learn a language never spoken on the talking screen to play her latest role. In "Hell Divers," Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's aviation drama starring Wallace Beery, she is to carry on a conversation in Panamanian with servants in the Panama sequence. The language is a hybrid variation of Spanish and rather difficult.

Frank Buck is evidently keeping his promise to bring back sensational motion pictures for the "Bring 'Em Back Alive" series. He is making for the RKO Van Beuren Corporation. Word has just been received from Singapore where the Van Beuren-Buck Expedition is making its headquarters, that jungle scouts have located a small herd of rare animals called Stadangs, the most dangerous big game to hunt, and Buck is now setting out on their trail with camera and ropes.

One of the most brilliant casts yet assembled for a British film is now hard at work on a talkie version of Edgar Wallace's most successful thriller, "The Calendar," which is being produced at the British Lion studios at Beaconsfield as a joint British Lion-Gainsborough production, by T. Hayes Hunter.

Heading the list of famous players is Miss Edna Best, who made such a dramatic exit from the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios in Hollywood recently when she became homesick. In "The Calendar," she will be playing opposite her husband, Mr. Herbert Marshall, and she will thus realize her long cherished ambition of starring in a film in which her husband would have the role of leading man.

So enthused is Carl Laemmle, Jr., and the whole Universal City lot with the story, "Gallows," that they have decided to star Lew Ayres in it. "Gallows" is the story written by Roland Brown, Universal's most recent acquisition in the directorial field. It is being put into scenario form by Bob Tasker and Richard Schayer, and will be directed by Roland Brown.

Louise Beavers, blues crooning character comedienne, has been cast as a colored mammy for "Sundown Trail," RKO Pathe's western picture starring Tom Keene. The role is somewhat similar to those she has played with Mary Pickford, Claudette Colbert and other screen luminaries. Starting her career as a night club entertainer, Miss Beavers attracted the attention of film scouts and since has been kept busy with picture work.

Astrid Allwyn, young stage actress, has been placed under contract by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and will leave New York for the coast next week.

Miss Allwyn is of Swedish descent but was born in this country. After studying with Maude Shearer she appeared in stock in Brooklyn and New Jersey and understudied one of the principals in "Street Scene." Later she played in "Young Sinners" and "Once in a Lifetime," and had planned to accept an offer to take a part in Schwab and Mandel's "Free For All" when the opportunity to go to Hollywood made her change her mind.

Miss Allwyn is five feet five inches tall, with brown hair and brown eyes.

Carl Laemmle sailed for Europe, sounding optimistic note.

The Big Circuits

The Small Circuits

The Individual Exhibitors

Canadian Famous Players, Fox Theatres, Warner Bros. Theatres, Paramount-Publix, Butterfield (Michigan) and a host of others have signed contracts for the showing of RKO Pathe 1931-32 Feature Pictures. They realize the box office value of popular stars in pictures that are hand-picked for each star's particular ability. R K O Pathe has the stars, directors and studio facilities for making the best pictures-- pictures that mean money to you at your box office. Insure yourself a profitable season Show RKO Pathe Pictures. Learn all the details about the product by asking Regal Films Ltd. to send a representative to explain them. You place yourself under no obligation when you do this.

RKO Pathe 1931-32 Feature Line-Up

Constance Bennett

in four productions, the first being
"The Common Law"

Helen Twelvetrees

in four productions, starting with
"A Woman of Experience"

Ann Harding

in four productions, the first being
temporarily titled
"Devotion"

Ina Claire

in one big production
"Rebound"

Bill Boyd

in four productions, the first being
"The Big Gamble"

Eddie Quillan

in four productions, the first being
"Sweepstakes"

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The Man at Six

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Fascination

The Ringer

Keepers of Youth

The Speckled Band

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Carnival

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